

**TO REDUCE CARBON FOOTPRINTS**

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WHEREAS, we are experiencing increases in global temperatures, sea levels, major droughts, unprecedented wildfires, major storms, species extinctions, and massive flooding; and

WHEREAS, it is the world's poor, who contribute the least to this problem, who will suffer the most from climate change; and

WHEREAS, we are called to love our neighbors as ourselves and to be good stewards of God's creation; and

WHEREAS, according to many of the world's leading scientists, to avoid these consequences, we must reduce carbon emissions to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050, or 17% below 2008 levels by 2017; and

WHEREAS, many churches in the Metropolitan Chicago Synod already have modeled good energy stewardship thanks to the support of the Synod's Environmental Concerns Working Group and organizations such as the Web of Creation and Faith in Place; and

WHEREAS, this assembly voted in June 2008 to establish a synod task force to develop a long-range Climate Action Plan with recommended goals and strategies for measurable improvements for all of its churches, missions and synod properties and to report back that plan at the 2009 Synod Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the synod's Climate Action Task Force (of the Environmental Concerns Working Group) has worked diligently this year to create that plan and necessary tools and test them with eight churches; and

WHEREAS, the Climate Action Task Force desires to join a global effort by people of faith to address climate change by releasing our seven-year plan in conjunction with the Alliance of Religions & Conservation in November 2009; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the churches and missions of the synod, inspired by their faith, endeavor to reduce their carbon emissions to 17% below 2008 levels by 2017; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the churches and missions of the synod support the appointment of project champions and teams to complete this effort; and be it further

39 RESOLVED, that the churches and missions receive the ongoing support of the Synod's  
40 Environmental Working Group and Faith in Place to use websites and tools created for  
41 this purpose by the Synod's Climate Action Task Force to help them calculate their  
42 carbon footprints (the total set of greenhouse gas emissions caused directly and  
43 indirectly by the church), identify carbon-saving actions (many of which are free or low-  
44 cost), and implement those actions, and be it further

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46 RESOLVED, that the churches and missions work toward recalculating their carbon footprints  
47 annually through 2017, including this effort in their annual meeting agendas to  
48 celebrate the progress made and take note of the work remaining.

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51 Submitted by:

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53 The Rev. Brooke Petersen, Irving Park Lutheran Church, Chicago, Ill.

54 Ms. Kristina A. Kaar, Bethany Lutheran Church, Batavia, Ill.